

St. John's United Church
March 26th, 2023
5th Sunday of Lent
Worship Leader – Rev. Charles Reid

OPENING HYMN VU # 622 Your Hands, O Christ

WELCOME

Greetings, welcoming newcomers, announcements, prayer concerns and celebrations.
We are looking for more choir members and musicians if anyone is interested in joining.

FIFTH LENTEN CANDLE READING

During lent, we remember the events that led up to the crucifixion. Jesus had come into the world to bring hope and light, but at every step there was those who could not accept the power of that light. He came to create a new relationship between God and human beings, but there were those who had other ideas. Because he could not be manipulated, they sought to kill him. In the Gospel of Matthew we read: when Jesus had finished teaching, he said to his disciples, in two days, as you know, it will be the Passover festival and the son of man will be handed over to be crucified. The chief priest and the elders met together in the palace of Caiaphas, the high priest, had made plans to arrest Jesus secretly and put him to death. "We must not do it during the festival", they said, "or the people will riot". Then one of the twelve disciples, the one named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and asked, "what will you give me if I betray Jesus to you".

They counted out 30 silver coins and gave them to him. From then on, Judas was looking for a good chance to hand Jesus over to them.

Reader: Betrayed by a kiss from a friend for 30 pieces of silver ... Anyone could have been the one, Jesus came as the truth, but the light was too brilliant for those who liked the darkness. As the small bags of coins were traded from hand to hand a little of the light that come into the world was snuffed out.

Regular Office Hours

10:00am-12:00pm Tuesday and Thursday

Office: 780.826.3003

E-mail: bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com

Website: www.bonnyvilleunitedchurch.ca

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

If you would like to continue with weekly offerings they can be sent in by:

Mail to: 4510-43Ave T9N 1R4

E-Transfer to: bonnyvilleunited@gmail.com

Join PAR: Contact Stacy Mercier 780.826.2859

This Week: March 26th, 2023

Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Reid

Greeters: Joyce Drapaka & Gladys Foster

Scripture: Kathy Cobler

Fellowship: Pat Wood & Rita Goodheart

Communion: Ed & Judy Inman

Next Week: April 2nd, 2023 (Palm Sunday)

Worship Leader: Rev. Charles Reid

Greeters: Jean Antoniuk & Pat Doonanco

Scripture: Donna Worden

Fellowship: Bim Bowers & Gina Elock

SERMON

WE BELIEVE

We are called to believe that the Lord God of heaven and earth is the creator of all universe. We believe that we are created in the image of God. We Believe God's only son was born to Mary a Virgin, born of the Holy Spirit. We believe that he was resurrected from the grave on the third day. We believe that he ascended to the throne of heaven. We believe in the Holy Spirit as our guide and comforter. We believe that Jesus the son of God will once again come to rule the world. We believe because we are God's children and Christians in the church of Jesus. Amen

OFFERING HYMN: VU # 537 Your Work O God

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil. And so we give what we can as the poor widow gave, that others may have an abundant life. AMEN

COMMUNION LITURGY *(Insert)*

HYMN VU # 382 Breathe on me Breath of God

HYMN VU # 112 O God, How We Have Wandered

Lord, we thank you for allowing us the privilege of praising you and serving you with faith, hope and love and may we continue our service to you as we live day by day. In Jesus name we pray Amen

We cried to God from the depths, and God heard our voice. We came with our burdens, bound by our fears. We leave this place with hope released to serve a living God. Go in the strength of God who shows steadfast love, and the courage of Christ who shares our humanity, and in the companionship of the Spirit who gives life.

Go Now In Peace

PASSING OF THE PEACE *(Please rise)*

Officiate: The peace of Christ be with you

People: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come out of the depths of all that has been lost. Push away the stone and wonder what glory could be.

We believe that there is more than this sorrow.

Come out into the morning light and find other things waiting and hoping for love to mend hearts again.

Our souls come together to watch and wait.

Come, let us worship our Saviour.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we gather in love of Jesus the Christ and open ourselves to your spirit. We open ourselves to your life in the midst of death. We open ourselves here hope in the midst of despair. In the midst of confusion and uncertainty, we open ourselves to a new way of seeing things, new way of understanding things in your love. **Stir us in our depths and call us out beyond every resistance.** Amen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

New life confronts us, O God. We know the signs of spring and a profusion of summer growth, the abundance of autumn and the tenacity of life in winter.

We praise you for a world so full of beauty. Your creative love and energy surrounds us, renewing and regenerating a planet that continues to evolve.

Yet we are also confronted by death: accidents and disease separate us from loved ones, forest life and farmland are destroyed by industry and development; cultures and languages disappear, and people lose their sense of identity.

We wrestle with unanswered questions and feelings of despair, and we're not always sure how to find our way through this wilderness. Too often, we feel buried by what we will never understand. Amen

WORDS OF AFFIRMATION

God does not abandon us to death and despair. Whatever has happened, whatever our fears for the future, God's compassion and steadfast love surrounds us. We are forgiven. We are loved, and God invites us again to live fully.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

**Now I lay me down to sleep, my soul at rest for God to keep.
And when I awake to a brand new day, the path of My Jesus, I
will walk today. Amen**

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

O God, sometimes we are in despair, we feel as if we are in a tunnel with no light at all. Total darkness all around us and with darkness bring gloom. Sometimes our minds and bodies are heavy laden, we feel weak and hopeless. When we begin our journey through the tunnel with prayer and faith; we begin to see the glorious light of Christ, as you raise us out of despair and darkness, the way you called Lazarus from the tomb.

**Glory and hope shine all around us, knowing that once again
Jesus has conquered death and darkness. Father, in the name
of your Son Jesus Christ our Saviour, thank you Amen.**

HYMN VU # 326 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Hear us O lord as we pray for those on our prayer list, that we may not think of ourselves, but put our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, first and foremost. We odd time forget the needs of others as we think only of ourselves. Jesus taught us to love with compassion and understanding. In his name we pray.

PRAYER LIST

OUR PETITION TO YOU LORD

**God of mercy and healing, you who hear the cries of those in
need, receive these petitions of your people that all who are
troubled may know peace, comfort, and courage. In the name of
Jesus we pray. AMEN**

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The words of the Lord
Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 130

Refrain 1: **Out of the depths I call to you; my hope is in your
promise true.**

Out of the depths have I called to you. O God, here my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.

If you should keep account of what is done amiss, O God, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you, therefore we will honour you.

(Refrain) **Out of the depths I call to you; my hope is in your
promise true.**

I wait for you, God; my soul waits, and your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God more than a watchers long for morning,
More than the watchers long for morning.**

O Israel, wait in hope, for with God there is love unfailing.

**With God is great power to redeem, to redeem you, Israel, from
all your sins.**

(Refrain) **Out of the depths I call to you; my hope is in your
promise true.**

In the name of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen

The word of The Lord

Thanks be to God

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 8:6-11

The words of the Lord
Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM # 410 This Day God Gives Me

GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-45

The words of the Lord
Thanks be to God